

winter. Many specimens were caught, and about one hundred were brought to and sold in the markets of Florence. I believe that about sixty of them were preserved, and are now in the Museum of Florence, in my own Museum, and in the collections of Marquis Ridolfi, Messrs. Pierotti, Ragonieri, Zaffagnini, Signorina Picchi, &c., all from Florence.

After the many specimens I have examined, I think it useful to state that in its general brown colouring this Goose varies very much, and shews considerable differences, and that such variations are not dependent on either sex or age. The number of teeth on the side of the upper mandible is usually about 28, and more seldom 26.

From information received from Manfredonia I find that this Goose was met with there in parties of all sizes, but more often in small flocks of four or five than in larger companies, cackling incessantly when in flight. They frequented localities rich in aquatic grasses rather than the corn- and stubble-fields. The flight of these Geese was either continuous and uninterrupted, or gradual, with more or less prolonged halts at convenient feeding-grounds. They fed exclusively, so far as my information goes, on vegetable matter, tender shoots of grass, water-weeds, young corn and other spring crops, and on grain of all kinds. These Geese were extremely shy, cautious, and well on the alert when feeding, so that it was very difficult to approach them.

This Goose is highly esteemed as a table bird and the flesh is delicious, but everything depends on the food that the birds last fed on.

Some young birds in the first plumage with the white feathering entirely absent on the top of forehead and along the base of the upper mandible and replaced by black or brown-black were mistaken for *A. brachyrhynchus*, but in the large number at my disposal I was unable to find a single Pink-footed Goose.

I am, Sirs, yours &c.,

COUNT E. ARRIGONI DEGLI ODDI.

Padua,
April 21st, 1909.

The following letter has been received from Mr. Boyd Alexander:—

Victoria, Kamerun,
April 9, 1909.

I arrived here about a week ago from Fernando Po after making collections on San Thomé, Annabon, and Principe. These three islands have not come up to my expectations, but the results in the last may atone for the deficiencies of the two former. San Thomé is very mountainous and thickly wooded, but the central mountain does not rise high enough to possess a fauna distinct from that of the lower land; the only two species peculiar to the mountainous district are *Nectarinia thomensis* and *Oriolus crassirostris*.

After a month's work on San Thomé I chartered a small Portuguese steamer which took me to Annabon. This is a very beautiful little island, and from a geographical point of view is quite unique in having a fine lake in the crater of its volcano at an altitude of over 1000 feet. It is thickly wooded, and one would have thought it a perfect paradise for birds; but apart from *Terpsiphone newtoni*, *Zosterops griseovirens*, *Scops fae*, and *Turturæna malherbii*, there was nothing more to be found. I could not discover the new *Haplopetia* described by Salvadori. After leaving Annabon I went to Principe, where I made a very interesting collection. You will be surprised to hear that the Parrot on that island is quite distinct from *Psittacus erithacus*—in fact I might almost describe it as a black Parrot. I am sending home the description of it, and propose to call it *P. princeps**. Even when on the wing to a careful observer it appears very much darker than *P. erithacus*. The natives also recognise it as being distinct. I have a good series of adult birds, and the characters remain constant. This Parrot appears to be decreasing very much. Keulemans in his day (1867) reckoned them by thousands, but at the present time they could hardly be told by the hundred. The forest portion of the island, which is their stronghold, is being rapidly converted into cocoa-plantations, while the planters shoot a

* [It is described under that name in Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxiii. p. 74 (1909).—EDDS.]

great number for food. I think the decrease in the numbers of this species might be put down to these two causes.

Besides this Parrot I think I have a new *Cinnyris*. On the whole I have made a representative collection, but there are several species that I shall have to erase from the list as not occurring on the islands.

At the present moment I am in a camp 8000 feet up the Kamerun Mountain. A week's work has given me some very interesting species, quite peculiar to the locality. It is a curious thing, but numbers of the Fernando Po species or close allies, which one would have expected to find here, are absent. I am now making my own road to the Peak, which approaches this spot on the western side.

News of Mr. Walter Goodfellow.—We have been favoured with the sight of a letter from Mr. Goodfellow, dated March 5th of this year, on which day he was encamped at the village of Gossi-ossi, at a height of about 6000 feet in the Owen-Stanley Range of British New Guinea, on a new expedition to procure living Paradise-Birds. On this occasion he had to surmount some difficulties in obtaining leave to catch Paradise-Birds, as stringent regulations had been passed to protect them. He had engaged the services of the same native bird-catchers which he had last year, but was taking them into a new district, and had had much difficulty in crossing some of the mountain-streams, which were at that time in flood. Mr. Goodfellow had found the dancing-place of the Blue Bird-of-Paradise (*Paradisornis rudolphi*) and had just succeeded in catching a fine female alive. He was next proceeding to a district five days' journey farther up, where he would be on a height of about 10,000 feet, and expected to obtain specimens of the long-tailed *Epimachus meyeri* and *Astrapia stephaniae*. He felt confident that he would be able to bring home pairs of all these three species, and hoped also to get examples of *Epimachus superbis* and of three species of Garden Bower-Birds which inhabit this district—*Amblyornis subalaris*, *A. inornata*, and *A. flavifrons*. Mr. Goodfellow's route this year was on the mountains east of the main range. He was hoping to get away from Port

Moresby on May 19th, and would return with his birds straight to England in order to prepare for the new expedition into Central New Guinea, which was announced in our number for January (see above, p. 194). The preparations for this expedition are well advanced, although it will not start so early as was originally intended. Mr. Goodfellow and the other members of the expedition will leave in October next for the Kei Islands, south of New Guinea, where all the necessary preparations will be made. When everything is ready, the expedition will move on to the coast of Dutch New Guinea, and make their actual start into the interior, towards the Charles Louis Mountains, early in January. A base camp will probably be formed on the foot-hills of the mountains.

It has been definitely arranged, as announced in 'The Times' of May 29th, that a survey-party shall accompany the expedition, under the leadership of Captain C. G. Rawling, who has just been awarded the Murchison Grant by the Royal Geographical Society for his excellent work in Western Tibet. The expenses of this part of the work will be defrayed by the Royal Geographical Society. Captain Rawling will be accompanied by at least one assistant, who has taken the society's diploma in surveying with distinction. Captain Rawling himself will probably proceed to India in September, in order to engage some Ghurkas, who will accompany the expedition as a guard. It is hoped that Captain Rawling's party will be able to make a satisfactory survey of the magnificent range of snow-capped mountains which stretch for a very great distance through the southern part of Dutch New Guinea.

Mr. A. S. Neave's Second Expedition to South Africa.—In January 1908 (see 'Ibis,' 1908, p. 203) we announced that Mr. Neave had left England on a new expedition to Southern Congo-land and Rhodesia. Mr. Neave, who has now returned home, spent nearly the whole of 1907 in the Katanga District of the Congo Free State, and visited the upper portions of the Lufira, Lualaba, and Lubundi Rivers. The last is not far from the frontier of Angola. After

that he travelled S.E. into North-east Rhodesia and, after paying a short visit to Fort Jameson, went north, right up the Loangwa Valley, and thence visited Lake Bangweolo, the Lofu River running into Lake Tanganyika, and the Kalungwisi River running into Lake Mweru. He collected about 850 skins of Birds, besides Mammals and Insects, and is now engaged in working out his results at the British Museum, South Kensington.

Mr. Douglas Carruthers's Movements.—Mr. Carruthers, as we expected (see 'Ibis,' 1908, p. 547), has left Samarkand, and gone back to his old headquarters at the Syrian Protestant College, Beirut. His collection of birds formed in the Zarafshan Valley (see above, p. 190) has arrived at South Kensington, and will be worked out by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant. Mr. Carruthers has already made a short excursion to the oasis of Tebuk, on the Hedjaz Railway. When writing, on March 26th, he was about to start on a new expedition from the Dead Sea up the Jordan Valley, and thence to the summit of Mount Hermon.

More marked Storks captured on Migration.—In 'The Times' of March 3rd, Mr. P. McKenzie announces the shooting, in the Polela district of Natal, of a White Stork, which bore on one leg a metal band with the inscription "Ornith. Köspont, Budapest, Hungaria, 209." To this letter there appeared in the same journal for March 17th a reply from Dr. O. Herman, Director of the Royal Hungarian Central Bureau for Ornithology, stating that the bird in question had been liberated in Transylvania in July 1908.

We also learn from 'The Times' of April 26th that the Rev. Ernest Schmitz, Director of the German Catholic Hospice at Jerusalem, has reported the capture of a marked Stork near that city on April 5th to the Hungarian Central Bureau for Ornithology, Budapest. A flock of more than 2000 Storks alighted to rest by one of the lakes near Jerusalem, and five were caught. The marked bird was hatched at Egri, in Eastern Hungary, last season, and marked with the Stork-ring No. 293 on July 8, 1908; it will be placed in

the new Palestine Museum. The Storks seen were, no doubt, on their homeward journey from South Africa.

Mr. J. Buckland's Lantern-slides of Birds.—At the Linnean Society's meeting on May 6th last, Mr. James Buckland exhibited a series of sixty lantern-slides received from the United States of America and Australia, in illustration of various species of birds in imminent danger of extinction in consequence of the commercial demand for their plumage as means of adornment. He pointed out the urgency of prohibitive legislation in order to save a multitude of birds, now rare, from the reckless slaughter by the plume-hunters.

The first group of slides shewed the slaughter of Gulls and Terns on the Atlantic seaboard of the United States, so great that President Roosevelt had intervened by proclaiming certain portions as reservations, and thereby saving the Terns in these protected sanctuaries. Next were shown the Snowy Herons on the Florida Keys Reservation; the patrol boats for the enforcement of the protective regulations; the grave of a warden shot in the execution of his duty by a bird-hunter on forbidden territory; and the nesting-habits of the Egret in Florida.

Following these came slides of plumage-birds from Oregon, California, and Venezuela; the flightless birds of New Zealand; the Birds-of-Paradise, Emu, Lyre-bird, various Bower-birds; and the home of the Albatross, the Australian Gannet in its rookery, closing with "The cost of a plume," a series of slides shewing the slaughter of the parent birds and the lingering death of the nestlings by starvation.

Mr. Fenton's Collection of Eggs.—We learn from 'Nature' (vol. lxxx. p. 223) that a fine collection of the eggs of British Birds has been presented by Mr. R. Hay Fenton to the Natural History Museum of the University of Aberdeen. The collection consists of about 7000 eggs, amongst which are some of Ross's Gull from the Kolymá River, and a good series of Cuckoos' eggs accompanied by the foster-parents' clutches. The last addition to the collection was an egg of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), purchased in London.